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ever been anybody as critical of the law, not as it exists in the abstract but in the way it is applied and misapplied, than I. However, there is a principle you have distorted, twisted, misstated, misrepresented, and I've got to try to correct you. But before I go into that, my mentee, Senator Erdman, knows I am not going to seek to retaliate against him in any way. all...you called me young man. One of the things that he has absorbed from me without even saying it out loud to him is that he should help the elderly and the infirmed who are not completely responsible for what they do, and he just did that and he gets a gold star for that today. I'm proud of Senator Erdman. I would not retaliate. I would retaliate if he did not show that respect for an elderly infirmed gentleman who does not deserve it. Now back to the point that I wanted to make. my colleagues need to know this because most of you probably will never be charged with a criminal offense. A traffic citation, by the way, is a criminal offense. When you go to court, you do not have to say a word in your defense. You don't have to say anything. The state cannot call you to the witness stand to say anything. The state, without any assistance from you whatsoever, must come forth and prove affirmatively every element of the offense beyond a reasonable doubt, every element, and you need not say anything. Even after the state finishes its case, you don't have to put on a defense. And sometimes a case will be dismissed because there was not sufficient evidence to prove it beyond a reasonable doubt. Now you may not have any way of disproving all of this claptrap Senator Tyson spews about carrying these guns and what's happening or not happening in these states. What he doesn't realize is that people in Vermont are so busy growing maple trees when they're not taking the sap of the tree that they don't have time to do anything with a And the only time they discharge it, Senator Tyson, when they forget to bring that little piece of wood that they knock into the trunk to let the sap come out, and they squeeze a couple of rounds off into the tree. That's the only thing they use guns for up there, so that's not a good example. Now what Senator Tyson is not able to do is to give a compelling, affirmative reason why we ought to adopt, as a policy, the notion that any and everybody can and should be encouraged to carry a weapon hidden on his or her person. He cannot show that when he walks down the street he's going to be attacked. And if